

My dear Sir

Permit me to

thank you, for your kindness
in sending me the account
of the Mexican Hand Tree -

Previous to 1820 my father,
Mr Stephen Hathaway, lived
in White M^t H^y in the next
house to Dr Mitchell's -

My mother was extremely fond
botany & painting - she
made a copy of this hand



flower at a time when
by an accident her left
arm had been broken -
I never knew how she got
the picture until your
note tells me that Dr
Kitchell had a picture of
it - Dr Gray of Cambridge
told me some time ago
that the flower was preserved
in spirits in A. Y. - but
I never knew where to go
to find it - I think however
the picture I have must

have been copied from Dr
Mitchell's as I suppose
the colours would not
last in alcohol & the
colours of the flower is
what Humboldt describes -
I never saw before, the
account of the people
assembling yearly about
that tree - though I had
read the account of it in
Humboldt's "Aspects of
Nature" — To me it is

an interesting tree - I
find drawings of something
of the kind in Loudon's
Botany, but there the
flowers hang & in mine
~~the flower~~^{it} is upright - there is
also a painting of the seed
vessel - the leaves are
done by stamping I should
think - again thanking you
yours very truly

S. S. Forbes

Hilton Hill
7th March -

